

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/6/08 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Chinn on October 20, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

The Claims:

In claim 3, line 20, after "methacrylic acid or salts thereof," insert -- and --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Note that, Applicant's amendments, Applicant's arguments, and the Examiner's Amendment are sufficient to place the instant claims in condition for allowance. Of the

Art Unit: 1796

references of record, the most pertinent is Aubay et al (US 6,593,288). Aubay et al teach the use of a water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer to give a hard surface hydrophilic properties. See Abstract. However, as correctly pointed out by Applicant in the response filed on 10/6/08, Aubay et al does not teach or suggest a method of antifouling and washing hard surfaces of toilet bowls by treating the toilet bowl surfaces with a detergent composition containing a polymer having the specific molar ratio of monomers as recited by the instant claims and the other requisite components of the composition as recited by the instant claims.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a method of antifouling and washing hard surfaces of toilet bowls by treating the surfaces with an antifouling detergent composition comprising a polymer having the specific molar ratio of monomers as recited by the instant claims and the other requisite components of the composition as recited by the instant claims. Accordingly, since the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest such a method as recited by the instant claims, the instant claims are deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 1796

272-1312. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory R. Del Cotto/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/G. R. D./
October 20, 2008